

RFP Questions

April 15, 2000

1. Reference: DOE's answers to questions on the draft RFP, Human Resource Section, page 12, Q&A 4.

(a) Demographic information on the entire TESS team is required for the Offeror to develop a responsive workforce transition approach. Please provide this information by current contractor, i.e., number of incumbents by master job groups for exempt and non-exempt personnel, as listed below.

EXEMPT

Managers

Supervisors

Engineers

Scientists

Administrative Professionals

Technical Support Personnel (other than engineers & scientists)

NON-EXEMPT

Technicians

Administrative Support

(b) Should the above information be unavailable, please provide the number of incumbents by EEOC job groups.

(c) Under the provisions of the RFP, the contractor is expected to assume sponsorship of TRW's Defined Benefit Plan, retiree medical, and retiree life liability. Please provide either the specific information on these plans for data that would support calculating these costs.

Answer:

1(a) or (b). The following list is provided:

NEVADA EXEMPT

Managers 97

Supervisors 84

Engineers 285

Scientists 146

Administrative Professionals 109

Technical Support Personnel (other than engineers & scientists) 167

NEVADA NON-EXEMPT

Technicians 99

Administrative Support 206

OTHER EXEMPT

Managers 15

Supervisors 7

Engineers 75

Scientists 8

Administrative Professionals 19

Technical Support Personnel (other than engineers & scientists) 11

OTHER NON-EXEMPT

Technicians 0

Administrative Support 11

Note: Does not include USGS nor two of the National Laboratories

1(c). There is no requirement to assume the retiree medical and retiree life liability. The pension plan is currently fully funded.

2. Reference: Paragraph L.4(a)(3) pertaining to the management and integration approach. "The Offeror" shall describe its approach to providing integrated business management and support functions, (e.g., procurement, transportation, public affairs, external communication . . .).
- (a) Please clarify the DOE's understanding of "transportation" as used in the above statement. Does it relate to fleet vehicles or does it have a broader interpretation that would include the infrastructure for, and shipment of, spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste?
- (b) Are the terms "public affairs" and external communication" used interchangeably or does the DOE distinguish between them? If DOE considers the terms as defining two separate functions, please provide the specific activities related to each.

Answer:

2(a). Transportation as used here includes those activities identified in the Statement of Work, C2.20.0 Support Functions. It does not include infrastructure for, and shipment of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste.

2(b). Public affairs usually refers to the written, verbal and visual communication of information to the public. This would include all outreach activities such as Yucca Mountain site tours, speakers bureau, educational outreach activities, exhibits, science centers, toll-free telephone numbers for public inquiries, FOIA library, public meetings, etc. The preparation and dissemination of public information products include fact sheets, brochures, exhibits, presentations, talking points, public announcements, journal articles, project information placement on the web sites, correspondence, document distribution, press releases, media kits, videos, etc.

External communications are interactions with local, state, national and international stakeholders from a wide variety of scientific, technical, and governmental organizations, including Affected Units of Local Governments, the State of Nevada, Indian Tribes, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the National Academy of Sciences, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Congress, the International Atomic Energy Agency and others who have an interest and stake in the program and Yucca Mountain Project.

3. Reference: Amended Letter dated March 31, 2000, paragraph 7.
This letter references a phase-in period extending from February 12, 2001 through March 31, 2001; however, the phase-in period is not referenced in any other part of the RFP.
(a) Does the DOE require specific activities to be performed during this period? If so, please specify.
(b) Are the Transition costs to cover this phase-in period?

Answer:

3(a). Per our 4/10/00 response to RFP Questions, the Phase-in Period will cover all operations of the M&O.

3(b). Transition costs are not covered in the Phase-in Period. Transition should be completed no later than 2/11/01. Phase-in begins 2/12/01

4. Reference: DOE answers to questions as provided on 4/10. Q&A number 2.
The questions referred to Experience and Past Performance; however, the reference provided by the DOE (Section L.4(c)1 etc.) refers to Key Personnel Interviews and Resumes.
(a) Did DOE intend to reference page count for Section L.2(g)(2) and (3) in their response rather than Section L.4(c)?
(b) If the correct references are L.4(g)(2) and (3), and the pages in these sections are not included in the 200 pages of Volume II, but those in Section L.4(g)(1), Relevant Experience, are included: Would the DOE prefer to see Relevant Experience in the separate Past Performance Volume or in the main Technical Volume?

Answer:

4(a). We did not intend to reference L.4(g)(2) and (3). We intended to reference Section L.4(e)(2) and (3), which are not included in the page count.

4(b). The information used to respond to Section L.4(e)(2) and (3) should be placed in a separate binder. Information in response to Section L.4(e)(1) shall be part of Volume II.

5. Reference: Section L.4(c)(1) and (3) referring to Key Personnel Interviews and Resumes. The referenced section skips from L.4(c)(1) to L.4(c)(3) with no L.4(c)(2). Is this a mistake in numbering or is a paragraph entirely missing? Please clarify.

Answer:

This is a mistake in numbering and a correction will be made when the RFP is amended.

6. Reference: Section L.4(e)(3) referring to Experience and Past Performance. “The Offeror shall identify any contract valued over \$10M that was terminated in whole or in part, for any reason, over the past three years.” Is this statement limited to DOE government contracts or does it have a broader interpretation? If the latter, please specify.

Answer:

This statement is not limited to DOE government contracts.

7. Reference: Section L.3(g). “The Offeror shall submit their Small Business Participation Program targets.” Does this wording mean that DOE requests the Offeror's plans for all categories of small businesses, including small disadvantaged businesses and women-owned small business? Please clarify.

Answer:

The FAR does not indicate that targets have plans for all categories of small businesses, including small disadvantaged businesses and women-owned small businesses. The Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Program only applies targets to small disadvantaged business and no other category of small business. Per FAR 19.1202-4(a) targets should be expressed as dollars and percentage of the total contract value in each of the applicable SIC Major Groups and a total target for Small Disadvantaged Business participation by the contractor and Small Disadvantaged Business participation by the subcontractor. SIC Major Groups are established by the Department of Commerce and can be found at www.arnet.gov/References/sdbadjustments.htm.

8. Reference: Section L.2(h)(1) referring to Page Formatting and Restrictions, second sentence. “Pages shall be numbered sequentially by volume and by section within the volumes.” Does this statement require that the pages in Volume II have two sets of page numbers? For example, Volume II would contain pages labeled II-1 through II-200 and each page would also be designated by section, e.g., II.A-1. Please clarify.

Answer:

We would like to make the following suggestion: it may be easier to number in the following manner such that no manual operations need occur:

IIA-1 thru IIA-11
IIB-1 thru IIB-17
IIC-1 thru IIC-53

The proposal should be easy to follow for the Source Evaluation Board members and if we need to add the number of pages in the various sections, we can easily do that.

9. RFP Reference: Section L.4(e)3. Page L-19 Proposal Performance Instructions for Past Performance. RFP Text: *Note: Offerors are advised that the Government may contact any or all references in the proposal and third parties (such as other Government Contractors, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, etc.) for performance information Will the DOE provide results of third party data to the Offeror(s)?*

Answer:

It is our intent to provide results of third party data to the offerors if the offeror has not previously had an opportunity to respond to such comments. Per FAR 15.306(a)(2) Exchanges with offerors after receipt of proposals. "If award will be made without conducting discussions, offerors may be given the opportunity to clarify certain aspects of proposals (e.g., the relevance of an offeror's past performance information and adverse past performance information to which the offeror has not previously had an opportunity to respond) or to resolve minor or clerical errors."

FAR 15.306(b)(1) provides that if a competitive range is to be established communications "Shall be held with offerors whose past performance information is the determining factor preventing them from being placed within the competitive range. Such communications shall address adverse past performance information to which an offeror has not had a prior opportunity to respond."

10. RFP Reference: Section L.4(c) Answer to Question 2. RE: Past Performance Page Limitations. It appears the reference made in the previous answer should have been to Section L.4(e) Experience and Past Performance. Further, we assume the answer means that any introductory material (as described in L.4 (e)1) we wish to include will be counted in the 200-page limit for Volume II. However, the five programs we cite using the Past Performance Package identified in Attachment E (ref. L.4(e)2) and any programs terminated in the past three years (ref. L.4(e)3) will not count. Are these assumptions correct? If not, please provide clarification.

Answer:

Your assumptions identified in the question are correct: L.4(e)(1) is included in the page count of the 200-page limit for Volume II, however L.4(e)(2) and (3) are not included in the page count and are in a separate binder.

11. RFP Reference: Section B.3(a)(2). Page B-3. Phase-In Period defined as Feb. 12, 2000-March 31, 2000. RFP Text: *The phase-in period (February 21, 2001 - March 31, 2001) will be on a cost reimbursement basis and the estimated cost is **\$TBD**. There will be no fee paid for the phase-in period.* What is the intended purpose of the phase-in period following transition, and why is no fee available? Critical work schedule and performance issues are ongoing during this period. Please provide explanation for this approach by the Government.

Answer:

Because the program will be moving at such a rapid pace, it was decided that we would allow an approximate 45 day phase-in period for the successful contractor to adequately assess the program status and appropriately analyze changes or adjustments which may be appropriate. There is substantial fee designated to the first few critical milestones to compensate the successful contractor for his diligent efforts in getting prepared to deliver the required milestones on a timely basis.